UGOPALACHARI): (a) and (b) Government of India has taken a decision to deduct the outstanding dues, as on November/December 1996 of Public Sector Undertakings under the Ministries of Power, Railways, Coal and Department of Atomic Energy through Central Appropriation to States/Uts/National Capital Territory of Delhi as per the following details:

Sl. No.	Ministries	Amount (Rs. in crores)
1.	Ministry of Power	8512.26
2.	Ministry of Railways	1112.93
3.	Deptt. of Atomic Energy	1648.00
4.	Ministry of Coal	3767.51
	Total	15040.70

(c) To minimise the impact of the above deduction it has been decided that not more than 15% of the Central Plan Assistance payable to the State Governments would be appropriated annually.

Privatisation of GS-15 Field of Krishna Godavari Basin

*194. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC proposes to privatise the GS-15 field of the Krishna Godavari Basin in Andhra Pradesh:

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether the officials have given any proposals to economically produce gas worth Rs 5 lakhs a day with nominal investment of Rs 50 corres per platform and structure in the sea; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not agreeing to the above proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BALLU): (a) to (c) No such specific proposals is under consideration of the Government of India.

(d) Does not arise.

Pending Proposals for Setting up of Thermal Power Projects

*195. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some proposals for setting up of Thermal Power Projects in Andhra Pradesh are pending with Government for approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to expedite the clearance of these projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) to (d) A proposal for setting up of a coal fired station (2×260 MW) at Ramagundam in Andhra Pradesh was received by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) on 11.2.1997. The decision to accord techno-economic clearance to the project would be taken by CEA subject to various inputs having been tied up and the requisite clearances from the competent authority obtained.

Besides the above, the investment approval is yet to be accorded to NTPC for setting up the 2×500 MW Simadhri TPS. For Vishakhapatnam coal fired station (2×500 MW) being implemented as an independent power project, the requisite clearances have been accorded by CEA and other authorities and the project is under consideration of the Government of India for grant of counter guarantee. For the other proposals, the project promoters/SEBs have yet to tie up the requisite inputs and submit/resubmit the

proposals to CEA and other relevant authorities for their approvals.

Supply of Gas Through Pipelines in Delhi by GAIL

*196. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) has launched any pilot project in Delhi to supply gas to consumers pipelines;

(b) if so, the total number of consumers proposed to be benefited by the supply;

(c) whether the GAIL has also initiated any action to introduce such facility in Tamil Nadu; and

(d) if so, the names of the towns selected for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BALLU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Around 1200 consumers are proposed to be covered.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Relaxation in Service Period to Central Secretariat Service Officers

*197. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officers belonging to Central Secretariat Service at present holding the post of Joint Secretary in various Ministries and Departments of the Government of India;

(b) whether it is a fact that most of these officers do not qualify to become Additional Secretary due to the fact that they have not renderred 25 years of Group 'A' service; and

(c) if so, the reasons for which the Central Secretariat Service, the only Group 'B' service participating in the Central Staffing Scheme, has not been given any relaxation in respect of the number of years of service to be rendered in Group 'A', vis-a-vis other Group 'A' service participating in the Central Staffing Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI. S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): '(a) Thirty-one Officers belonging to the Central Secretariat Service are presently holding the posts of Joint Secretary/equivalent in various Ministries/Departments of the Government of India, as also in autonomous bodies

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not airse, in view of (b) above.

Issue of Bonds by REC

*198. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rural Electrification Corporation has been allowed by the Reserve Bank of India to issue special bonds for its pumpset energisation programme in rural areas and semi-urban areas;

(b) if so, by when these bonds are likely to be issued;

(c) the total amount to be raised through these bonds; and

(d) whether the funds so raised would be used strictly for energy efficient pumps suitable for lower than the normal voltage, often available in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) Yes, Sir. Reserve Bank of India has permitted the subscription to bonds, issued by Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) exclusively for financing pumpset energisation programmes in rural and semi-urban areas, to be treated as priority sector